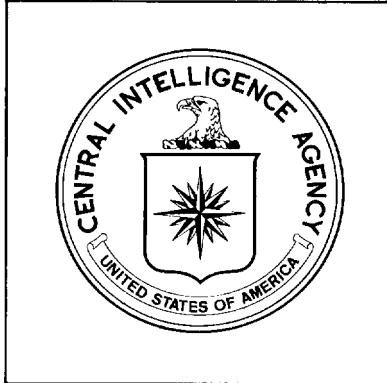


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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Prime Minister Wilson Arrives in Moscow

British Prime Minister Wilson is scheduled to arrive in the Soviet Union today for a four-day visit.

London has trailed well behind the other major Western nations in improving relations with the USSR, partly because of the mass expulsion of Soviets accused of espionage in 1971. Neither side is indicating it expects dramatic developments to come from this visit, but at least the British will be re-engaged in East-West summitry.

The British have tried to beat the Soviets at their own game by submitting a large package of topics to be discussed during the visit, including a draft of a joint declaration on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The British expect that the Soviets will press for favored formulations on CSCE and MBFR and that these will be the main sticking points in the talks. Recently, perhaps with the visit to Moscow in mind, the British have adopted a more conciliatory tone on CSCE in Western councils. There is still, however, a sizable gap between the Soviet and British positions.

Several routine bilateral accords will probably be signed, but a Soviet Foreign Ministry official has said that any political documents emerging from the visit will be far less important than those Moscow has signed with the US, West Germany, and France. He added that an increase in trade between the two countries would depend on "political development," an apparent reference to British concessions on CSCE and MBFR.

British officials say they have hinted broadly that a meeting between Wilson and Soviet party chief Brezhnev would be desirable. The Soviets have made no commitment, but they have unofficially leaked stories that have kept the possibility alive. A similar scenario was followed during the visit by Australian Prime Minister Whitlam in mid-January.

Soviet Reaction to US Military
Aid Cut-Off to Turkey

Moscow has sought some propaganda mileage out of the cut-off in US aid to Turkey, but has been careful not to let support for Turkey set back its recent attempts to improve relations with Greece.

Recent Soviet radio broadcasts in Turkish have played up the deterioration in US-Turkish relations and have echoed the Turkish Prime Minister's recent statement that Ankara should re-examine its ties with the US and NATO. The broadcasts praised Turkey's resistance to US pressure and went so far as to suggest that Turkey may leave the NATO alliance. The broadcasts did not mention Turkey's Cyprus policy as the reason behind the aid cut-off, however, and thus avoided endorsing Ankara's stand on this sensitive issue.

The Soviets are under no illusions that their historic Turkish adversary will pick them to replace the US as Ankara's principal supplier of military hardware. They may offer some military aid, however, and probably hope that even their relatively discreet moves will encourage a more neutral Turkish policy and reduce US military use of Turkey.

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Sakharov Backs Prisoners' Demands
for Political Status

Leading Soviet dissident Andrey Sakharov renewed his efforts yesterday to focus world attention on the demands by inmates of Soviet labor camps to be officially recognized as political prisoners. This is the second time in four months that Sakharov has publicly addressed the prisoners' cause.

Along with three other prominent dissidents, Sakharov released a statement to the Western press calling on leading world figures to support his efforts and labeling the regime's contention that only ordinary criminals are imprisoned in the USSR a "cynical degradation" of the prisoners' human dignity. Sakharov said a group of inmates in one camp in the Urals had begun a planned seven-day hunger strike on Monday to back their claim to political status.

Last October, Sakharov publicized what he said was a one-day hunger strike in at least two camps over the same issue. Neither the strike nor reactions in the West, however, had the impact that Sakharov and his colleagues had hoped.

Sakharov's appeal is the latest evidence that he is determined to continue his dissident activities despite increased harassment that has included anonymous threats against members of his family and cut-off of mail and telephone contact with the West. Over the years, Sakharov's prominence has seemed to make him immune to such acts, but he says the current harassment is the most serious he has yet experienced. This plus the recent interrogation by the KGB of his erstwhile associate on the Committee for Human Rights, Andrey Tverdokhlebov--now Moscow secretary for Amnesty International--suggest that the regime is seeking further to isolate Sakharov, and to warn him that the regime's tolerance of his activities is not boundless.



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[REDACTED]

Moscow Art Show Postponed

A small crowd of art lovers met disappointment when they gathered Monday at a Moscow exhibition hall expecting the opening of a one-week show of unconventional art [REDACTED]. Alerted to the prospective exhibit by Western broadcasts, some of the people had come from as far away as Leningrad, where a public exhibit of unconventional art was successfully held in late December.

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One of the artist-organizers of the Moscow show later told the US embassy that the exhibit had been "put off." He did not say why or by whom, but did note that the artists hope the show can open sometime after February 20. This suggests that the artists' stated dissatisfaction with the poor conditions at the exhibit hall offered them by the city Committee for Graphic Art is one sticking point. It could also mean that the artists cannot agree among themselves whether to accept the regime's conditions for sponsorship, including the prior review of the works to be shown. Some paintings have already been officially reviewed and rejected.

Moscow's unconventional artists who held an outdoor show at Izmaylovo Park last September gave up their subsequent plans for an indoor exhibit in December when several members of the group were harassed by the regime [REDACTED]. At the time, they decided to keep a low profile until the "climate changed." Their current efforts are narrower in scope and apparently intended as a test of the climate, rather than evidence of a belief that it has changed.

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Meanwhile, the regime has been whittling away at the artists' unity. The purpose is to divide the advocates of an "all-or-nothing" approach from those who favor submitting to a degree of official control for the sake of gaining some official sanction for unconventional art. Culture Minister Demichev, a candidate

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Politburo member, hinted to Ambassador Stoessel in December that the limits of officially acceptable art may be widened in return for the artists' willingness to accept the authority of established institutions.

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Slovene President Stresses Yugoslav
Independence and Stability

The US consulate in Zagreb has reported a recent meeting with the Slovene Republic President, Sergei Krajger, who took the highly unusual step of expressing his views on the post-Tito period to a group of foreign diplomats. Krajger is a pre-war Communist party member, who now wields considerable influence as the top government leader in Yugoslavia's wealthiest republic.

Krajger met with the assembled consular corps in Ljubljana on February 7. Speaking extemporaneously, he emphasized that Tito's Yugoslavia will continue to adhere to its own brand of socialism and to its nonaligned foreign policy. He declared that Yugoslavia is strong and stable "as you can see for yourselves," and hoped the consular corps officials were reporting this to their respective governments.

In a subsequent private conversation, Krajger said he failed to understand the continuing doubts abroad about the stability and durability of post-Tito Yugoslavia. "The fact is," he stated, "we are already in the post-Tito Yugoslavia; the country is in the hands of the post-Tito generation of leaders."

The consulate notes that the determination of Yugoslavia to maintain its independence and its territorial integrity was Krajger's clear political message. To underline the point, the annual meeting between the Slovenian government leaders and the consular corps was timed to coincide with festivities honoring the early 19th century, Slav nationalist poet, France Preseren.

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